

House Resolution 1003

By: Representatives Smith of the 113th, McKillip of the 115th, and Heard of the 114th

A RESOLUTION

- 1 Celebrating the 150th anniversary of the Athens YMCA; and for other purposes.
- 2 WHEREAS, the Athens YMCA, one of the oldest YMCAs in the nation, was founded in
3 March of 1857, just 13 years after the national movement started; and
- 4 WHEREAS, meetings were held initially at a local church before the Athens YMCA moved
5 to the basement of the First Presbyterian Church, and in 1898, the organization moved into
6 its first building, which now houses the Georgia Theater and was the site of Athens' first
7 swimming pool, the "Iron Tank"; and
- 8 WHEREAS, during World War I, the Athens YMCA was in the process of raising money
9 for a new facility, and in 1915, it opened one of the best YMCA facilities in the country; and
- 10 WHEREAS, the YMCA program grew with each generation, guiding the men and boys of
11 Athens mentally, physically, and spiritually, and during World War II, army troops used the
12 YMCA fields as a camp during military movements; and
- 13 WHEREAS, the first basketball teams at Athens High School and the University of Georgia
14 used the gym at the Athens YMCA, where the university team was coached by YMCA
15 personnel; and
- 16 WHEREAS, the Athens YMCA opened its current facility in 1967, and it currently has a
17 membership of over 6,000 men and women of all ages; and
- 18 WHEREAS, today, the YMCA offers a variety of quality programs, and although the types
19 of services are different from the original Athens YMCA, the overall mission remains the
20 same: the practice of Christian principles through programs that build a healthy body, mind,
21 and spirit for all.

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
2 the members of this body recognize the Athens YMCA on the occasion of its 150th
3 anniversary, express their appreciation for the extensive services the YMCA has provided
4 the citizens of this state, and extend their sincerest best wishes for the future.

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
6 and directed to transmit an appropriate copy of this resolution to the Athens YMCA.